

Thinking Like a Scientist Project

Complete a “newspaper front page” poster with four sections:

1. “Meet a Scientist” –

Using the library or internet resources, research the life and work of a life scientist. This section should include the country and culture in which the scientist lived, major events in the scientist’s life, and ideas that the scientist studied and/or developed. Examples of scientists include: Elizabeth Blackwell, Cornelia Clapp, Charles Darwin, Alexander Fleming, Jane Goodall, Mae C. Jemison, Ernest Everett Just, Barbara McClintock, Thomas Hunt Morgan, Mary Walker, and James D. Watson.

2. “Is it a Law or a Theory?” –

Write a brief article on the difference between a scientific law and a scientific theory. Give at least 2 examples of each.

3. “Update Science” –

Using recent newspapers or the internet, find one example of how scientific knowledge has changed due to recent scientific discoveries. Explain the law or theory that changed and what caused the change.

4. “Science Versus...” –

Create a compare/contrast chart showing the differences and similarities between science and a common game or subject area (for example, science and basketball). Include the following in the chart:

- What is the ultimate goal?
- Who is involved?
- What are the rules?
- Who makes sure the rules are enforced?
- What happens if you break a rule?
- Who are the spectators?

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“Meet a Scientist” Section includes:

Photo or drawing of scientist (5 points) _____

Country and culture of the scientist (5 pts.) _____

Major events (timeline) of scientist’s life (10 pts.) _____

Major scientific ideas developed or studied (20 pts.) _____

Law versus Theory Section includes:

Explanation of the difference between scientific law and scientific theory (5 points) _____

Gives two examples of scientific laws including the name of the law and a description of it (10 pts.) _____

Gives two examples of scientific theories including the name of the theory and a description of it (10 pts.) _____

“Update Science” Section includes:

Explained an update to a law or theory (10 pts.) _____

Explained what new evidence caused the change (10 pts) _____

“Science Versus...” Section includes:

Chart comparing science and a game or subject (5 pts.) _____

Chart included all elements required (10 pts.) _____

Total (out of 100 possible) _____

You may do this project alone or with UP TO two students IN THE SAME CLASS.